

WEST LANCASHIRE Champion

25 August 2021

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:



Closure rumours rubbished!

Stolen defibrillator is returned after story was highlighted in Champ

Report by Henry James

A LIFE-SAVING defibrillator worth more than £850 which was believed to have been stolen from a Public Access Box in Tarleton Village has been returned with the help of the Champion.

A Douglas Cardiac Trust trustee was placing a replacement defibrillator in the box on the wall at Holistic Health, at 100 Church Road, when he noticed the original unit was back – with no explanation.

Bernard Sparkes, secretary of Douglas Cardiac Trust said: "The Trustees of the Douglas Cardiac Trust would like to register their thanks to the Champion and their readers for publishing the details of the missing – believed stolen – defibrillator from Tarleton.

"As a result of this publicity the defibrillator was returned to the box from which it was removed. One of our trustees was putting a replacement defibrillator in the box when he noticed the original unit had been returned – with no explanation.

"The trustees would also like to thank those people involved in the huge fund raising effort – mounted to buy a replacement defibrillator, which cost more than £850 each.

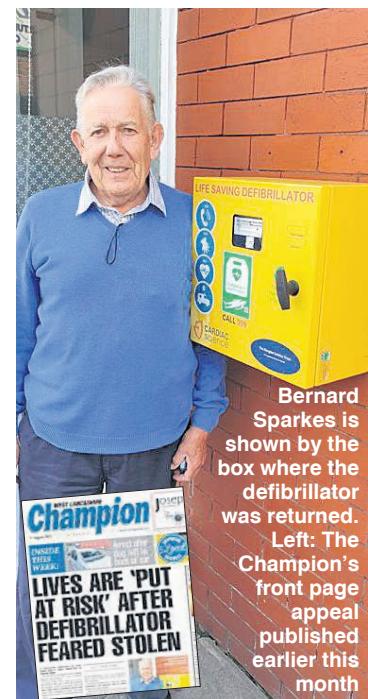
"The Just Giving site had raised more than £1,100 by Thursday evening August 19 and a local couple gave a very generous anonymous donation.

"A very generous donation from Southport Lions International has made a huge difference.

"Now that the original defibrillator has been returned the trustees would like to make clear that all the

money raised will be invested in replacing outdated defibrillators as well as providing batteries and pads to local schools, churches, local sports facilities and the public access defibrillators.

"Part of the money raised will be shared with the First Responders in the local area of Tarleton, Hesketh Bank and Banks."



Bernard Sparkes is shown by the box where the defibrillator was returned.
Left: The Champion's front page appeal published earlier this month

KICKSTART FOR YOUNG JOBLESS IN WEST LANCS

Workplace scheme reaches 'significant milestone' as 100 people now placed into employment in borough

THE borough council's 'Kickstart' scheme has reached a "significant milestone" and now has 100 young people placed into employment with local businesses and at the Council.

Kickstart is a government funded employment programme in which young people aged 16 to 24 year on Universal Credit, can access a six-month work placement through a partnership created through the Council and 64 local employers across West Lancashire.

This is 40 more placements than the team had originally planned and the team are currently working on filling even more vacancies for the remaining four months of the scheme.

The first two young people

Report by Henry James

to enrol through Kickstart in February have both been offered permanent positions now their placements have been completed, and the Council are hopeful several other young people on the scheme will also be offered longer term roles after their placements have finished.

All young people on the scheme are offered a "comprehensive" package of training and support with roles being filled across a range of sectors including IT, digital marketing, hospitality, environmental services and property management.

Paul Garton, commercial director at Motion Graphix in Skelmersdale said: "Thanks



Councillor Yvonne Gagen 'delighted' by Kickstart scheme's success

to the Kickstart programme we've managed to fill four key roles with talented people that may never have had a chance. The team at West

Lancs Council have been incredible in their continued support not only for us, but for our new team members."

Chris Lloyd, business director at Base-dance in Burscough is also really pleased with the scheme and added: "I can't believe the talent that is out there, our Kickstarter Rose has been a breath of fresh air and we just know she will keep bringing innovation and new ideas to the business."

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, cabinet member for leisure and human resources, said: "We are delighted by the success of the Kickstart scheme which is designed to support young people who have struggled to gain employment due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Continued on page 5

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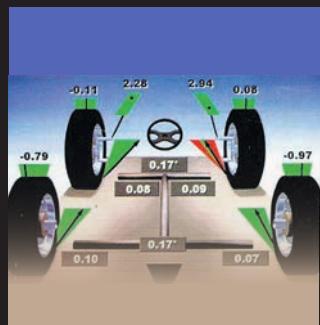
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Cllrs oppose bar plans to stay open later at night

AN application for longer opening hours at Edge Hill's student bar should be withdrawn and re-thought, say Our West Lancashire ward councillors Ian Davis and Adrian Owens.

The application would see longer opening hours for takeaway food to 4am some days and longer hours for the sale of alcohol on some nights of the week as well as outside drinking areas on campus.

Clr Ian Davis said: "If the hours that are proposed were granted it would see students living in the town attracted down to campus in the early hours for 'one last drink' with all the extra noise and nuisance that local residents frequently complain to us about."

Clr Adrian Owens said: "I have been in touch with the university, council and police as well as writing to the Student Union.

"They really must rethink this application, take it off the table and then engage with the local community. That's the right way forward."

County Council bids for funds to reduce flooding in Parbold

Report by Henry James

WEST Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper has received confirmation from Lancashire County Council of a bid for Government funding to address Parbold flooding issues.

Following the 2015 floods, Ms Cooper has been working closely with Parbold Flood Action Group to ensure the council brings forward its promised flood report and subsequent actions.

While some work has been undertaken to address the problems, LCC have now updated their request for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "We can never get complacent hoping that flooding issues in Parbold and across West Lancashire have just gone away, so I continue to support Parbold Flood Action Group to ensure that the responsible agencies including Lancashire County Council take their responsibilities seriously."



Flooding in Parbold in 2015 and (inset) MP Rosie Cooper

"If the bid is successful, the grant will be used to finally complete their flood report into existing conditions around the village, to assess options for improving flood risk management and to deliver relevant projects.

"Regardless of the outcome of this bid, I will continue to hold Lancashire County Council to account for resolving the flooding issues in Parbold and across West Lancashire in their role as the Lead Local Flood Authority."

Flooding is a serious issue for many parts of West Lancashire and in 2015, more than 100 homes and three businesses in Parbold were devastated by the floods which severely affected areas across the borough.

One business left the village as a result of the damage caused, while some residents were unable to return to their homes until 11 months later in November 2016.

Parbold Flood Action Group was formed soon after this by concerned residents who wanted to avoid a repeat of the 2015 floods.

Funding bid

MP Cooper continued: "Having been in continual correspondence with the county council since the floods in 2015, I am pleased to hear that further work is still ongoing and that the council is bidding for additional government funding to deal with the issue in the long-term.

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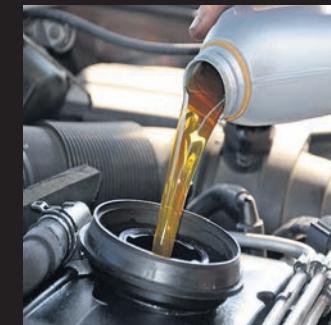
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Residents urged to use the NHS 111 service during upcoming Bank Holiday weekend

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are reminded to utilise the NHS 111 service if they need urgent care during the upcoming Bank Holiday weekend.

111 online (111.nhs.uk) can help patients who feel unwell but do not have a life-threatening emergency.

The service will help direct individuals to the appropriate place for treatment which could be a pharmacy, walk-in centre or accident and emergency department. People without access to the internet can dial 111.

GP practices and some pharmacies will be closed but other services will remain open, with some operating on different hours to usual.

Dr Peter Gregory, local GP and chair at NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "Utilising the 111 online service is vital as the NHS manages huge demand across the system. They can direct you to the appropriate service and can help ease pressure on emergency services, as well as helping patients avoid potentially lengthy waiting times by giving you a timed appointment should you need one."

"The Prescription Ordering Direct service is closed on Bank Holidays and so I would again urge residents to order their repeat prescriptions well in advance. Some pharmacies are open to help you treat common ailments."

For more information visit West Lancashire CCG's website and social media channels (Twitter: @WestLancsCCG).

Still time to enter Scarecrow Festival... but no scary ones!



RESIDENTS are being invited to enter the Skem Scarecrow Festival.

The festival was launched on August 1 and people can enter by adding a picture of their scarecrow to the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Skem-Scarecrow-Festival-100301268938766/>

The rules say the scarecrows must be made of recycled materials; must be displayed on your own property; they will remain the property and responsibility of their owners/builders; and must not obstruct the view of oncoming traffic from either pedestrians or road users.

The judges decision is final and no scary scarecrows are allowed.

A spokesperson for the event said: "This is just for fun and I hope that the residents join in and enjoy it."

All entries for the festival must be added to the site on or before midnight on September 4."

Off-road biker fled after passenger was thrown from vehicle

SKELMERSDALE Police attended a road traffic collision after an off-road bike lost control and a female was thrown off the rear of the vehicle.

The driver of the off-road bike then fled the scene and left the injured female on the side of the road.

She was taken to hospital with a suspected fractured pelvis.

The incident took place on Monday, August 16.

A spokesperson for Skelmersdale Police said: "Thankfully the female was wearing a helmet otherwise this could have been much worse."

"This is just another example of how dangerous these bikes can be and why we do not tolerate them."

"We would like to thank all of the members of the public who assisted at the scene."

Children and young people in the county received 'timely support' during the pandemic, say OFSTED

by Henry James



County Councillor Cosima Towneley

OFSTED inspectors have endorsed the way that Lancashire County Council continued to support children and young people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During a recent focused visit of children's services, and in particular the help and protection it provides for vulnerable children, inspectors highlighted that children who need help and protection, receive timely support at the appropriate level of need.

They also praised senior leaders for their "coherent strategic" approach to changing and improving services that has resulted in progress being made.

The virtual inspection was carried out as part of Ofsted's review into how the social care system nationally has provided services and care for children and young people since the outbreak of Covid-19.

The inspection in Lancashire looked at

arrangements where families come into contact with children's services, including assessments and plans for child protection and children in need, referrals to early help services, for support and links with other agencies.

Inspectors looked at how the threshold for services and accommodation of children is applied, as well as decision-making and contact with families and children.

In a letter published by Ofsted, the inspection team also points out that Lancashire has experienced high levels of Covid-19 throughout the pandemic and, at the time of this visit, continued to have one of the highest infection rates in the country.

Inspectors also found that since the pandemic, partners worked effectively to maintain services and minimise

the impact on vulnerable children and their families. Inspectors highlighted that this is a noteworthy achievement, particularly given the size of the county and its workforce, and the significant and continued impact of Covid-19.

County Councillor Cosima Towneley, cabinet member for children and families, said: "The way that staff and managers have responded to the Covid-19 pandemic in Lancashire has been exceptional."

"I am proud that Ofsted has recognised the way the service has continued to work proactively and incredibly hard to keep children and young people safe, despite the huge challenges the pandemic has placed upon us."

"The letter is a mainly positive assessment of children's

services in Lancashire, further demonstrating that we are continuing to make strong progress as we strive to achieve excellence."

"We will never become complacent. Any thorough inspection like this will also highlight areas where we could do better. We will continue, at pace, to address these. In all we do, we will continue to work hard to make a positive difference to the lives of our most vulnerable children, young people and their families."

The Ofsted visit took place on July 6 and 7, 2021 and was in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. This visit was carried out by remote means, using video calls for discussions with local authority social workers, managers and leaders.

Hospital 'closure' rumours rubbed by health chiefs

People behind claims are just stoking fears, fumes MP

Report by Tom Martin

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital bosses have dismissed rumours that the hospitals are facing closure or downsizing.

Leaflets and social media posts have been circulating in recent weeks about the news, leading many to speculate if it was true.

But Trish Armstrong-Child, the outgoing chief executive of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said there are "no proposals or plans which would see either hospital closing in the future."

This was echoed by Trust Chair Neil Masom, who claimed the rumours are "disrespectful to the more than 3,000 people who work here."

Southport MP Damien Moore also condemned the "constant rumours



Ormskirk District General Hospital

of closure" and described it as "stoking fear in our community."

He said: "If you were a doctor con-

sidering moving to our town to

take up employment, how would you react when you read stories telling residents it is about to close? I have had hospital staff con-

tacting my office asking how long they have before the hospital will shut down - and how long they have to plan for a move out of our town. I

tell you, it does a great disservice to our town - and our hospital - to peddle these lies"

have had elderly residents who rely upon public transport to get to their medical appointments worried about how they will get to Liverpool or Preston 'once the hospital closes'.

"It does a great disservice to our town - and our hospital - to peddle these lies, which are designed to stoke fear within our community."

"I am glad that the Chair and the Chief Executive of Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals have both confirmed that there is no truth to the allegations. As the hospital Chair Neil Masom has said, these claims are 'disrespectful to the more than 3,000 people who work here'."

"I urge opposition parties and groups in Southport to reflect on their conduct, and attempt cleaner campaigning in the future. I will continue to stand up for the fantastic people who work at our hospital."

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Edge Hill study shows hanging around with your 'least attractive friends' is the best way to look good in photos!



Dr Edwin Burns

A NEW study from Edge Hill and Soochow Universities appears to reveal that 'hanging around with your least attractive friends is the most effective way to look good in photos'.

This new study by Dr Edwin Burns and Dr Haojiang Ying, recently published on Science Direct, shows that if you and your friends are already 'very attractive' then appearing in group photos will actually make you look worse than usual.

Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so the study is rather questionable to say the least and perhaps should be taken with a huge dollop of salt.

However, if you and your friends are average or below-average attractiveness then a group photo is the best way to go and will make you look better than ever. The message is that if you want to look good in photos and on social media you need to hang around with your worst looking friends.

This phenomenon, known as the 'cheerleader effect', has been widely researched over the last several years but this is the first time that group photos have been shown to have negative

effects when very attractive people are put into the pictures.

Dr Burns said: "We demonstrate that while in the majority of cases we are more attractive in groups this effect works in reverse for people with highly attractive friends, as being around really attractive people has a detrimental impact upon our appearance, especially if we are attractive ourselves."

"The key to looking your absolute best in photos is choosing your friends wisely and only having photos with the least attractive members of your friendship group. This may sound harsh, but this is how our minds work whether we like it or not."

"My expert advice is when you're out with friends this summer it might be a good idea to stand next to your least attractive friends in group photos, and next time you want to update your tinder profile, get your worst looking mates together for a few photos to make sure you look your absolute best."

The research was carried out by asking people to rate faces in a wide variety of group photos featuring different people and locations. The

results showed clearly that group photos are generally beneficial unless you and your friends are at the upper end of attractiveness.

"The results of the study were really clear". Edwin explained. "In all the group photos of people with unattractive friends our participants rated the faces more highly. But when we started using photos with only attractive friends the ratings dropped by around 10%."

This effect can be proven to work with even simple images. If the outer, 'attractive' faces in the image below are covered the blemishes on the middle face will start to disappear after a few seconds.

Similar studies have been carried out worldwide, in eight different countries, with the same results seen all of them.

Haojiang Ying from Soochow University in China said: "It's amazing that this result is so universal and shows how ingrained this effect is. It doesn't seem to matter where in the world you are from or what your background is, group photos will always make you look better unless your friends are all very attractive people."

Jamie's regret over friend's Covid death

Report by Henry James

Skem man wishes he could have persuaded his pal to have vaccine

THE friend of a Skelmersdale man who died from Covid wished he had persuaded him to have the vaccine.

Carl Pennington, 41, who hadn't had a vaccine, spent 10 days in Southport Hospital after receiving a positive test, and died soon after being put on a ventilator.

His devastated friend Jamie Williamson, 31, commented: "Carl hadn't had the vaccine and I wish I had told him to because he wasn't very active. I think this virus is deadly if you are not very active."

"I would encourage people to get out in the sunshine when we have it, get the Vitamin D inside them and go on a walk. Many people could learn to eat better. I hope to get my first vaccine this week."

Jamie has now set up a fundraiser to help Carl's family. Carl was a carer for his mum who died earlier this year from a heart attack. Jamie added: "Carl spent most of his adult life caring for his mum."

"He was struggling to pay for the funeral as she didn't have any life insurance. Carl didn't have much either."

"His family, including his brothers Colin and Mark, now have more funeral costs to pay. I decided to set up the fundraising page to help them."

Carl, who was a Liverpool fan, was considered to be unselfish by those people who

knew him. Jamie paid the following tribute to his friend: "I knew him basically all my life. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. He would do anything to help the people he knew."

"He used to cut my hair all the time and never asked for a penny when he could have charged. He has done this for years, so I feel like I owe him just for that alone."

"He will be missed by everyone who knew him. The world is a sadder place without him. You'll Never Walk Alone Carl."

More information about the fundraiser can be found by visiting <https://is.gd/KPVQ5n>



Carl is shown with Jamie's nan Christine Williamson

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Lesley-Anne (right) with Alex and Sue

Kickstart scheme reaches milestone



From page 1

"This is also a great opportunity for local employers to boost their business with the talents and enthusiasm these young people can offer."

The scheme is due to end in December, subject to any extension from the Department of Work & Pensions. Vacancies are still available for any young person aged 16-24 in receipt of Universal Credit.

Anyone who wishes to get involved should speak to their local Job Centre or the Council's Kickstart team by emailing kickstart@westlancs.gov.uk

Lesley-Anne takes a spin for Walking With Giants Foundation

A MEMBER of Anytime Fitness has raised more than £1,000 for a Maghull-based charity.

Lesley-Anne Bull did 10 consecutive 45 minute spin classes (*a form of indoor cycling*) at the gym on Saturday, August 14 for the charity Walking With Giants Foundation.

Sue Connerty, the mum of a young boy called Alex Connerty who has a very rare form of Dwarfism called Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism, set up the charity to support families whose child was affected with this condition.

Lesley-Anne commented: "I organised this fundraiser to support a wonderful local charity that is based in Maghull."

"This condition has affected less than 500 individuals globally since the condition was first recognised. Sadly not many of these individuals live a long life due to the underlying medical conditions they face."

"The Walking With Giants Foundation has supported more than 140 of these individuals from the UK and around the world."

"The WWGF do not receive government funding or much grants from other sources so they rely on the public to help them raise the

money they need to achieve their aims and objectives."

"So come on people let's show the WWGF that the work they do matters!"

Sue added: "Lesley had support of others taking part in the classes. Some people did one class, others did more and one other woman did the whole 10 classes too."

"I didn't realise the intensiveness and how hard a spin class was until we went along to show our support."

"Alex the owner of Anytime Fitness and all his staff were fully supportive of the event."

"Through this event Lesley has raised more than £1,100 which is truly amazing."

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Pride in the Job winner Dave Read

Site manager named one of best in country

A SITE manager from Ormskirk is celebrating after being named among the top 5% nationwide.

Dave Read received the NHBC Pride in the Job 'Quality' Awards for his role in overseeing construction at The Hollies in Forton.

He is among just 450 out of more than 10,000 site managers to be recognised in the prestigious awards.

Dave, a first time winner who works for Kingswood Homes, said: "It's a massive achievement for the team at The Hollies. I was elated when I found out.

"For Pride in the Job the management of the site is judged from the foundations right the way through to the finished product and includes a well-managed and organised site. You have to deliver the best possible workmanship to win. It shows that we care about what we do and we're building the best homes that we can."

Dave, who started his career as a joiner, has worked for Kingswood for more than a decade and has seen the company move from being a building company working on domestic and commercial projects to developing sites of its own.

"Site management is a very rewarding career, but you have to work hard. We're lucky that the trades working on site are really good as without them I wouldn't have been able to win the award – it's a team effort," explained Dave, 41 from Rufford.

On a typical day, Dave oversees 20 to 40 people working on site at The Hollies.

Residents urged to host coffee morning

WEST Lancashire residents have been urged to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning this September.

This year the official date is September 24 but events can be held at any time.

The first ever Coffee Morning happened way back in 1990 when it was a rather small affair with a simple idea: guests would gather over coffee and donate the cost of their cuppa to Macmillan in the process.

It was so effective, they repeated it the next year – only this time nationally. Since then, Coffee Morning has raised more than £290 million for Macmillan.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "The Macmillan Coffee Mornings have become an integral fundraising effort but also a firm favourite as family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues take a time out to catch up over a cuppa and enjoy a biscuit or cake."

"Anyone in West Lancashire can sign up to host a coffee morning with Macmillan sending out fundraising kits with various bits of merchandise, visit coffee.macmillan.org.uk"



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Professor Phil Scraton pays tribute to H'boro campaigner after death



Phil Scraton

Report by Tom Martin

FORMER Edge Hill staff member Professor Phil Scraton has paid tribute to a fellow Hillsborough campaigner who has passed away.

Rose Robinson, from Blundellsands, died on August 8 at the age of 79 after a short battle with cancer.

Her 17-year-old son, Steven Robinson, was one of the 97 Hillsborough victims who died in the 1989 disaster.

Rose - described as 'inspirational' - became the original press officer for the Hillsborough Family Support Group and later the northern media spokesperson for the HFSG.

She played an important role in campaigning against the appointment of Norman Bettison as Chief Constable of Merseyside in 1998.

She fought tirelessly for justice for Stephen and the other victims and even appeared on David Frost's television show to be interviewed alongside fellow campaigner Anne Williams.

Her family say she will be terribly missed as she leaves behind husband Bernie, daughters Tracey and Claire and sons Paul and Peter and her seven grandchildren.



Rose Robinson with Sir Kenny Dalglish and (inset) her son Steven

Professor Phil Scraton penned a book called 'Hillsborough: The Truth' and worked at Edge Hill University.

He said of Rose: "You were inspirational and determined in your pursuit of justice - for Steven, for all who were killed at Hillsborough and for those who survived, their lives changed for ever."

"You knew the truth and for three decades, along with bereaved families and survivors, you campaigned tirelessly to achieve justice for your loved ones."

"Rose, your strength of spirit, your commitment to ensuring the truth was known, never wavered. That commitment, shared by your family, the bereaved and survivors, reminds us that we never walk alone."



Police commissioner to tackle retail crime

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Andrew Snowden, has brought together representatives of the retail industry in Lancashire to hear about their issues relating to retail crime.

The roundtable meeting with key stakeholders was part of his drive to meet as many communities, businesses and front line police officers to listen to and better understand the issues faced.

At the meeting the discussions focussed on retail crime and abuse on shop workers - with the Commissioner seeking a common understanding and way forward in how retail related crime is dealt with in Lancashire.

Mr Snowden said: "I want Lancashire's business owners to know that I am on their side and their voice is being heard. I

am committed to leading the fight on crime and antisocial behaviour that affects our businesses and retailers.

"The discussion will feed into and shape my police and crime plan and I look forward to working with businesses across Lancashire to see how we can best deal with business crime and shopworker abuse.

"I recognise that what may be considered petty theft to some has a real impact on people's livelihoods and the confidence they have to report crimes. We also need to remember that shoplifting and theft is often a by product of deeper problems.

"As Police and Crime Commissioner I want to tackle the underlying problems of addiction and abuse, not just the symptoms which is sadly too often crime committed in our communities."

'Digitally excluded' residents to get help

OFFICERS at West Lancashire Borough Council have said they are "dedicated" to helping their digitally excluded residents get online.

They have teamed up with 'We Are Digital' to offer residents free 1-2-1 training sessions which can be done remotely at home and are designed to cover all the basics of being online including how to use the internet safely.

Council Leader, Councillor Ian Moran said: "Covid has shown how really important it is for people to stay connected with their loved ones and be able to access services online.

"We want to help and support all our residents to be online and these courses are designed to go at the right pace whether you have a little bit of experience or are taking your first steps with digital technology."

Residents who are interested in the free courses can text WEST LANCS and their name to 07825 844 417 or can call 01695 585216 (standard text and call charges apply).

Flower Show set to return next summer after two year coronavirus hiatus

SOUTHPORT Flower Show will return for 2022 following a two year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Organisers say they can't wait until next year's big event - which will take place from Thursday, August 18 to Sunday, August 21 - and they have already announced its first special guest as TV garden expert Adam Frost.

It has also been confirmed that tickets purchased for the cancelled 2020 and 2021 events will be carried over.

A spokesperson said: "We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our four-day summer festival of all things flora and fauna plus everything you need to immerse yourselves into a relaxing summer atmosphere. The past 18 months have been very tough indeed but it has given us an extra determination to make next year's show the best ever!"

"The stunning show gardens and spectacular floral displays in our Grand Floral Marquee will be centre stage. With special guests sharing their expert gardening tips and advice.

"For those who have a



Adam Frost

recent or long-standing passion for gardening, why not enter your lovingly nurtured home-grown produce in our Amateur Growers' Marquee competition. You will be amazed at how many exhibits are on display. There are also classes for baking, preserves and honey.

"Sit back, sing along or get up and join in with our fabulous line up of live music. Entertainment doesn't stop there; we have a stunning programme of spectacular performances for the whole family in our arena and around the show ground.

There will also be lots of fun activities and very special guests to entertain the children and don't forget - children under 16 go free with a paying adult.

"Enjoy some of the nation's most loved chefs sharing their tips while they cook - live in our Cookery Theatre! Once you've got your inspiration, head to the bustling food marquee where you can sample and buy produce from over 50 independent gourmet producers.

"Take the opportunity to wander round over 300 amazing trade stalls. You're sure to want to treat yourself.

"Just to give you a little taste of the fabulous guests we have lined up - we are delighted that garden expert Adam Frost will be at the show on Thursday, August 18. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the gardening world, and we look forward to him sharing this with our visitors through his talks and Q&A session."

Tickets are now on sale. For more information visit the website: www.southportflowershow.co.uk



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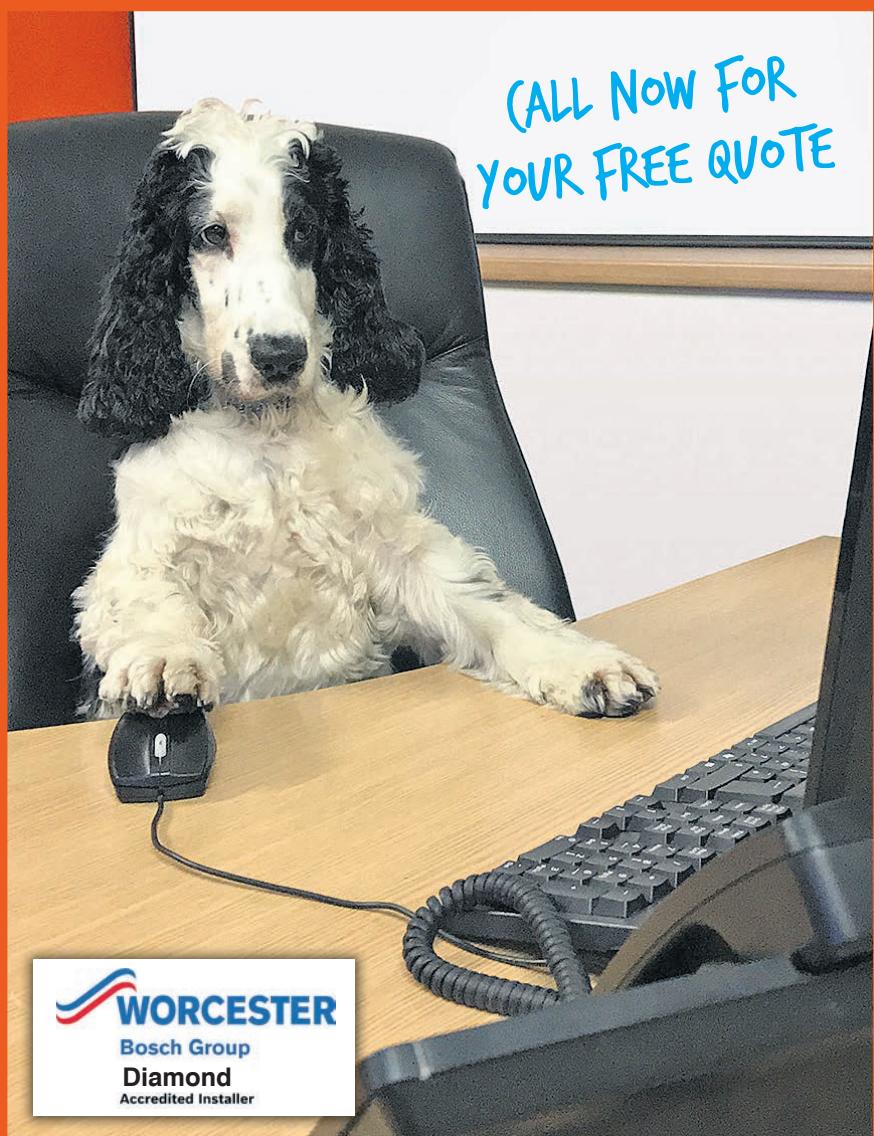
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Second round of mobile Covid-19 vaccinations to be held in borough

Report by Henry James

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are urged to protect themselves against Covid-19 as a second round of mobile vaccinations comes to the region next week.

Following the success of the pop-up clinics in June and July, mobile vaccinations are returning on Friday, August 27 with regular clinics in a number of locations until Saturday, September 4.

The local NHS is working with GP practices, West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to provide the service in areas where vaccine uptake is lowest in a bid to ensure as many people as possible are protected against Covid-19.

The vaccination teams also return to a selection of sites from the first run of clinics to allow residents to receive their all-important second dose.

16 and 17-year-olds will be able to receive their first dose of Pfizer at these clinics.

Councillor Vickie Cummins, cabinet member for health and wellbeing at West Lancashire Borough Council, said: "It is vital as many people as possible come forward for their Covid-19 vaccination, and it has never been easier for the residents of West Lancashire to receive their first or second jab by visiting a mobile walk-in clinic.

"We're particularly keen to see the under 30s come forward. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and the community from the virus and its immediate and long-term effects.

"This has been another collaborative effort from our NHS, the Clinical Commissioning Group, GPs, local authority staff and volunteers. My sincere thanks go to all involved for their hard work in continuing to help protect West Lancashire."

Abdul Razaq, acting director of Public Health for Lancashire County Council, said: "Cases of Covid-19 remain high across the county, with increases being seen in a number of districts.

"As we begin to learn to live with Covid-19, it is vital we use every tool at our disposal to continue to give



Locals can get a jab from the mobile sites

us the upper hand over the virus, and that means getting fully vaccinated with two doses.

"If you are eligible and have not yet had two doses of the vaccine, please come forward and take advantage of the extra clinics being held in West Lancashire to protect yourselves and those you care about."

The schedule for the van is as follows:

- **Friday, August 27** - All Saints Church Hall, Station Road, Hesketh Bank, PR4 6SQ – Midday-5pm
- **Tuesday, August 31** - Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LN – 10am-5pm
- **Wednesday, September 1** - Tanhouse Community Centre, Skelmersdale, WN8 6AN – 10am-5pm
- **Wednesday 1 and Thursday, September 2** - West Lancs College, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6DX (Staff & students only) – 8:30am-4pm
- **Thursday, September 2** - Evermoor Hub, Skelmersdale, WN8 9HR – 10am-5pm
- **Friday, September 3** - Greenhill Community Hub, Skelmersdale, WN8 8DL – 10am-5pm
- **Saturday, September 4** - Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LN - 10am-5pm

First and second doses are available at all sites. If attending for a second dose, please ensure it is at least eight weeks since your first and if you have an appointment booked for your second, please ensure you cancel to avoid potential vaccine wastage at other sites. More sites will be confirmed in due course.

For updates, visit the West Lancashire CCG website.

Lancashire among record 20 places bidding for UK City of Culture 2025 title

A RECORD 20 places from across the UK, including Lancashire, have submitted an expression of interest to become the UK City of Culture 2025 - an all time high of entries for this prestigious competition.

The competition, delivered by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in collaboration with the devolved administrations, uses culture as a catalyst for levelling up areas outside London and putting new parts of the UK on the cultural map internationally.

Entrants have been tasked with proving that they can put culture at the heart of their plans to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

The 20 places also include Derby, Medway, Southampton

and Bradford. Lancashire wants to become the first county to win the UK City of Culture title.

Lancashire continued with their entry despite the county council pulling its support after the authority saw the £22million to back the idea as too risky.

The winner, which will be announced next year, will take on the baton from Coventry as the 2021 UK City of Culture and be at the centre of the UK's cultural spotlight in 2025.

The benefits to the winner of the title could be huge, attracting millions of visitors and investment and bringing communities together to showcase the place where they live to the country and the world.

Throughout the history of

this competition the winning cities have always benefited from financial support to ensure the programme's success and lasting legacy. Coventry has received more than £15.5 million from the Government to directly support its year as UK City of Culture.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "This record number of applications from all four corners of the country is testament to the huge success of City of Culture in generating investment, creating jobs and boosting local pride."

The 20 bidders will be reduced to an initial long list of bidders in the coming weeks and then cut down further to a final shortlist in early 2022. The winner will be announced in May 2022.

Parents urged to look out for early signs of Respiratory Syncytial Virus signs in children

HEALTH experts are urging parents and carers in West Lancashire to be aware of the signs of respiratory illnesses in toddlers and babies, with cases higher than usual for this time of year and further increases expected over the winter months.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common virus that causes coughs and colds in winter and is the most common cause of bronchiolitis in children under two.

In the UK, the RSV season typically begins in the autumn - earlier than the adult flu season - and runs throughout the winter. However, this year we are now seeing this presenting in children much sooner.

Dr Anne Kerr, Emergency Department (ED) consultant, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, said that whilst respiratory infections are common in children in autumn/winter, we are now seeing more children and babies with respiratory infections earlier on in the year, due to restrictions lifting.

She said: "We're now seeing more children and babies with respiratory infections coming through our doors at the emergency department, as restrictions have lifted and people are mixing again. Many new parents may not have experienced respiratory illness in their child until now which understandably, can

cause them to worry.

"Most cases, however, will not be serious and often the child can be cared for at home with simple measures such as paracetamol, rest and plenty of fluids."

Common symptoms of bronchiolitis are runny nose, a rasping, dry cough, mild increase in temperature. You may also notice them feeding less and making more effort in their breathing.

Children under two months of age, those born prematurely and those with underlying health conditions, such as a heart condition, are a higher risk of severe bronchiolitis and parents should consider accessing health advice earlier.



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The white deer in Tarleton

Rare white deer spotted by passer-by in Tarleton

Report by Henry James

CHAMPION reader Alan Gillard has shared some pictures of a white deer crossing the road in Tarleton.

The Skelmersdale resident was driving when he spotted the rare animal.

He said: "Me and my partner were out for a drive in Tarleton when a white deer walked across the

road. I slowed down and my partner took some pictures."

According to The British Deer Society, in most cases, the white deer are usually fallow, a species that is widely distributed across much of the UK and for which white is a recognised colour variety.

White fallow are not seen as often as the other three main colour types (common, menil and black), but where they are present they tend to stand out more obviously against other members of a herd or when in cover.

Leisure company scoops national award

SERCO Leisure, the company which in partnership with West Lancashire Community Leisure operates Park Pool, Nye Bevan Pool, Burscough Racquet & Fitness Centre and Beacon Park Golf Centre has been named the Ukactive Outstanding

Organisation of the Year. The Ukactive Awards are the most prestigious event of its kind in the health and fitness calendar, recognising excellence across the industry.

Mark Snaylam, contract manager for West Lan-

cashire Community Leisure said: "I'd like to congratulate our operating partner Serco Leisure on this important award, which recognises the amazing work done at health and fitness centres throughout the country."

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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We must avoid American-style approach to health care system in order to protect our NHS

As the Government commit themselves to a highly damaging piece of NHS legislation, the Health & Care Bill 2021, concocted by the now shamed former Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, I write to express my deep concerns and total opposition to its presentation to Parliament.

Even before Covid19 struck, the public were becoming more aware of restrictions to care, closures of hospitals due to the implementation of US Style Integrated Care Systems (ICS) based on the flawed 'Accountable Care Organisation' model.

This US profit model, co-designed with the likes of consultants McKinsey, and involving US insurance companies such as United Health, Centene and Palantir, needs the NHS in England to be broken up into 42 'localised' ICS.

The Bill seeks to cement this American model within our NHS and politicians must examine the evidence and afford the pub-

lic a full, open and honest debate.

Putting ICS in place relies heavily on pushing more services into the community and the promotion of the NHS as a charity plus shrinking the menu of NHS treatments available, in order to make profits for the private companies who can and will be sitting on the boards of a local ICS.

Those needing treatment will experience a true healthcare postcode lottery, and a two-tier system where care will depend on ability to pay.

If passed the Bill will make a mockery of the public's love for the NHS, as shown by public clapping during the pandemic.

If passed, the Bill signals the end of our National Health Service as a public service of universal healthcare for everyone regardless of ability to pay.

That cannot be allowed to happen.

Mary Whitby
Aughton

Cars need to be made in a cleaner and more ethical way

Further to Mr Swann's letter in your August 11 issue, about the need for all goods to be 100% recyclable and particularly with regard to fields of scrap electric cars in France.

I understand batteries for most of these cars contain cobalt and lithium, and it is these that appear to be difficult to recycle.

Another point is that the Democratic Republic of Congo provides 60% of the world's supply of cobalt, where large numbers of unregulated mines use children as young as seven as miners, (The Guardian – 3/1/21) so ethics are questionable.

No doubt the motor industry will develop cleaner and more ethical vehicles in future.

I'm of an age when I won't be driving much longer. Maybe my current three year old car will become a vintage one, if a future Government doesn't ban all those in the future!

Oh, and remember when our Government encouraged one and all to get diesel vehicles and change our heating boilers?

Times certainly change.
Mr A Prescott
Scarisbrick

Railway wild flowers should be welcomed by nearby residents

I can't tell you how disappointed and irritated I am about the story in last week's Champion about residents being annoyed that vegetation was growing next to their homes (see picture, right).

Do the residents that are complaining have any grasp at all on the state of nature reports that are finally getting some attention on the TV?

I guess they're either completely ignorant of the fact or just genuinely don't care. I would suggest, if they have children or grandchildren that they care about, they start taking some notice and giving nature some breathing space.

Some people, it seems, just won't be happy unless they can put nature in a box and keep it neat and tidy.

But let me put their minds at ease, there are plenty of people out there that would jump at the chance to see wildflowers (you may call them



'weeds')

beyond their house. We have a wasteland behind ours which is covered in brambles and nettles (which are very visible to us) so we have the pleasure of living next to moths, butterflies, house sparrows, robins, hedgehogs... the list is endless.

A hearty 'well done' to Network Rail who are rightly putting the environmental priorities first.

Frustrated resident
Ormskirk

T Pugh
Tarleton

Children should not be allowed to abuse pigeons

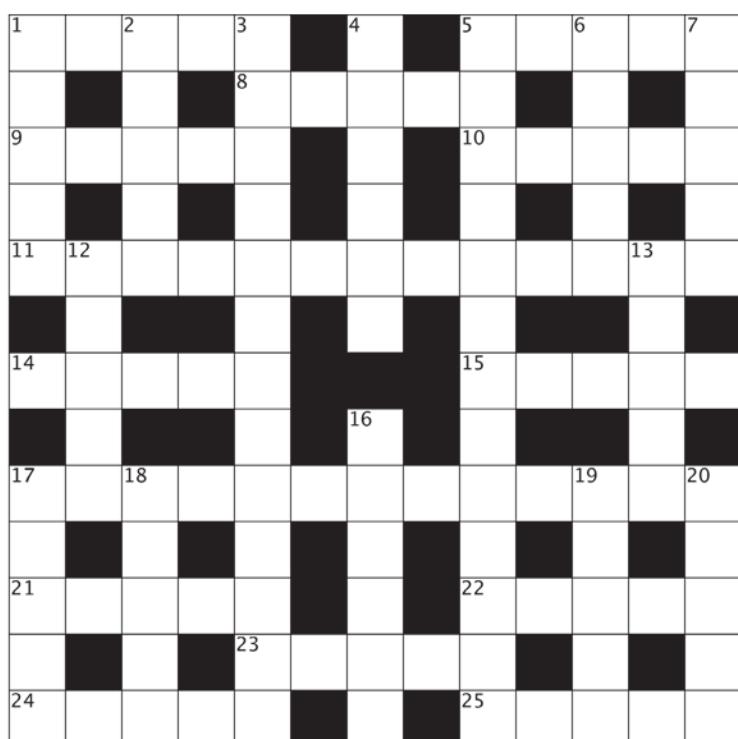
Is anyone else shocked and disgusted with parents on Lord Street and Chapel Street in Southport? Is animal abuse legal?

There are so many parents laughing and encouraging their children to abuse pigeons.

A.J.M.
Ainsdale

CROSSWORD

Week 34.2021



ACROSS

- Writer of fables (5)
- Country to the west of England (5)
- Very overweight (5)
- Portable shelters made of cloth (5)
- Pegg, British actor (5)
- Long term alteration of Earth's weather patterns (7,6)
- Cutting implement (5)
- City in Florida, USA (5)
- Used to change channels (6,7)
- Snake poison (5)
- Surname of Dickens' Oliver (5)
- Demonstrate by evidence (5)
- Chess castles (5)
- Frock (5)

DOWN

- Room inside the roof (5)
- One of the two main branches of Islam (5)
- Collected by a philatelist (7,6)
- Youngest son of the Queen, Prince Edward, Earl of (6)
- London-based Premier League club (4,3,6)
- Yellow citrus fruit (5)
- Lightly burn something (5)
- Weapon used in jousting (5)
- Type of stew from Louisiana (5)
- Educational establishment (6)
- The Ribble, for example (5)
- A large fleshy tropical stone fruit (5)
- Major European river starting in Switzerland (5)
- British car company based in Norfolk (5)

WORDSEARCH

This week's wordsearch theme is MOUNTAINS. Remember that the words can run in a straight line in any direction.

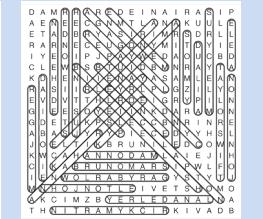
If you have enjoyed these puzzles, and would like to exercise your brain further, check out The Wheatear Book of Crosswords and The Wheatear Book of Word Searches.

Both are currently available from www.wheatearbooks.co.uk or Amazon.

Last Week's Solutions



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CAIRNGORM
CATSKILLS
DOLOMITES
EIGER
EL CAPITAN
EREBUS
ETNA
EVEREST
FUJI
FUJIYAMA
HELVELYN
HOREB
KILIMANJARO
MATTERHORN
MONT BLANC
OLYMPUS
OZARK
PENNINES
PINATUBO
PYRENEES
RUSHMORE
SCAFELL PIKE
SNOWDON
ST HELENS
TABLE MOUNTAIN
VESUVIUS



Botanic Gardens lake to benefit from £30k improvement works

Report by Tom Martin

PLANS to carry out £30,000 worth of improvement works to the lake at Southport's popular Botanic Gardens, have been revealed by Sefton Council.

The authority met on Thursday, August 19 to discuss the proposals in detail, which includes new water aeration fountains, the installation of new fencing and secure lifeline stations, as well as plans for annual community clean-up events.

The park is a popular destination for many people in West Lancs and as part of a wider vision for transforming the site, the initial improvements were outlined to members of the Botanic Gardens Community Association and Make a Change for Ben fundraising group, who have been in discussion with the council's Green Sefton team on the proposals.

The Champion has published several articles about how the Make a Change for Ben group is campaigning to have the lake properly cleaned after Ben Smith-Cralan, 37, from Churchtown, died after catching a rare infection following a fall into the water.

Ambitious plans

The council say they have "ambitious plans to transform the park" and eventually they hope to spend around £5million if they can secure funding.

Clr Ian Moncur, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing said: "Our Green Sefton team has been working alongside a number of dedicated community groups who care deeply about the future of the park and are keen to see improvements that benefit everyone who loves spending time there."

"We're at the stage where we have been able to agree some initial improvements focused on the lakeside



The lake in Botanic Gardens

area that will complement the work already undertaken, at the beginning of the year, to improve the aviary.

"But our longer-term vision is to reinvigorate the park with a whole host of potential ideas that would offer better facilities for our communities as well as providing a positive boost to the local visitor economy, including the creation of new jobs."

The Green Sefton Service will launch a consultation to seek ideas from the community for the longer-term vision for the Botanic Gardens.

Details of those consultations can be found at the website: <https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/>

In time, it is expected funding will be sought from streams through organisations that support the heritage sector.

The project would support the restoration of many of the park's Victorian buildings and help the Council to develop new attractions that would bring more visitors from Sefton, West Lancashire and the wider region to the park and generate income that would be earmarked for the park's maintenance and management.

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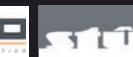
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Men-Aces group return to training after long break

SKEM Men-Aces Disability Football Club are now back training after a long break.

For one of the weeks it was decided to hold an in-house tournament and it proved to be an enormous success.

Mim Eaton, a coach of the Men-Aces, said: "After a long break, Skem Men-Aces Disability FC came back to training. A few players were apprehensive, but one thing that was in abundance was the smiles, the genuine jubilation of seeing their friends again."

"As a club, we decided just to get the lads back together again to get their fitness levels up."

"We decided to hold our own little in-house tournament and it proved an enormous success. It was pure tonic to see the lads really enjoying themselves."

"We are hoping and touching wood that we can carry on through the winter months, and start playing and enjoying travelling to every corner of Great Britain once again."



Sacha Hatchett

Lancashire Constabulary appoints new Deputy Chief Constable

LANCASHIRE Constabulary has appointed a new Deputy Chief Constable.

Sacha Hatchett joins the constabulary from North Wales Police where she was Assistant Chief Constable, and will take over from previous Deputy Chief Constable Terry Woods who left the force earlier this month to join Greater Manchester Police.

Sacha Joined the police service in February 1997 and has worked within a variety of different roles across North Wales Police and Cheshire.

She said: "I am hugely proud to have served as North Wales Police's first female Chief Officer and to have been involved in many of the Force's developments and successes during my 24 years of service."

"It is now time to move on to the next opportunity and I very much look forward to the new challenges of the Deputy Chief Constable role at Lancashire Police."

"I look forward to bringing my own wealth of experience over to the Lancashire Chief Officer team, having worked across a variety of departments and specialist roles during my career."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



North Wall is a new Estate Agency, launched in the middle of the pandemic and now taking root in Maghull

One of the questions I always get asked is 'Why did you start your own

Estate Agency?' It's a pretty big question, especially in the middle of a pandemic, says Kate Gostelow, Sales Director at North Wall.

The short answer is easy - I love it! I've been doing it for 15 years now and have never thought of doing anything else. The chance to build our own agency as a family business and do things the way we believe they should be done was too good to pass up.

Right from the get-go we wanted to build something from the ground up based on

values, and for those values to be at the heart of everything we do. We wanted to offer something that was different to the rest of the market, a level of service that we felt had been lost.

After maternity leave and then lockdown I found myself at home looking at what was going on and thinking about setting up my own agency, how I would want to run in it, and just as importantly - how I wouldn't. I've seen agencies react to changes in the market in the past, reducing fees and giving flattering valuations to win business. It becomes a race to the bottom, and it's only natural that low fees lead to reduced service - it's the client that misses out in the long run.

I wanted to work in an area I knew really well, and I've been valuing in and around

Maghull and Sefton for years and years now so that was the natural choice.

Our service is hands on, it's personal, it's traditional. But it's also modern, the amount of tech we use behind the scenes and in our marketing is amazing, we're pushing things on that side and I'm really proud that we can do that whilst still offering a really dedicated service.

We're trying to provide a level of service that we think is missing from the market. We won't be for everyone, we get that and we're comfortable with it.

But for those clients that place value over price when it comes to something as huge as selling your home, we feel we're building something really special for them.

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North Wall



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He said: "Having missing teeth can have a social and functional impact, but here at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa we aim to address this for our patients by providing same-day fixed teeth."

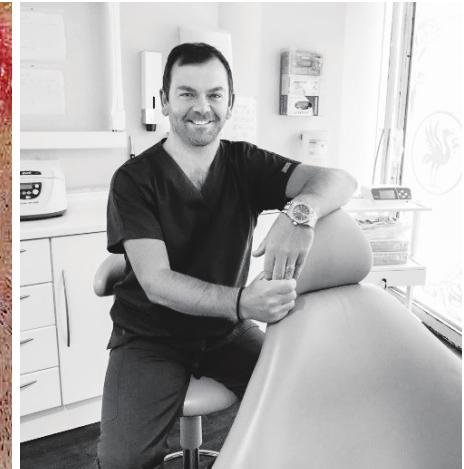
"Many people are now aware that dental implants can replace single missing teeth in a highly successful, attractive and long-lasting way."

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Mural unveiled for inspirational H'Boro campaigner

Report by Tom Martin

A MURAL has been created in memory of inspirational Hillsborough campaigner Anne Williams.

The stunning piece of artwork can be found on Anfield Road, near Liverpool's stadium, and will be passed by thousands of fans on their way to the match.

It was painted by artist Paul Curtis and shows Anne with her fist clenched in celebration of the legal milestone in 2012.

Nine years ago she played a pivotal role in fighting for fresh inquests into the victims' deaths.

Her son Kevin was one of 97 Liverpool fans who died as a result of the crush during an FA Cup match in 1989.

Anne, who lived in Formby, passed away in 2013 aged 60 after pursuing justice for her son and the other victims of the disaster for more than 20 years.

Paul Curtis said: "A symbol of the city, a hero and an amazing woman. It's been an absolute honour to work on this mural."

"She was a mother of three from Formby who worked part-time in a newsagents, and levelled several legal attacks at the first Hillsborough inquest, questioning the credibility of its findings.

"Her fight was long but she was unwavering and should always be seen as a shining light of perseverance and standing up for justice against the odds."

At an inquest in 1991, jurors heard Kevin and 94 others were dead by 3:15pm, a verdict which Mrs



The mural, created by artist Paul Curtis

Williams never believed and, as a result, she refused to accept his death certificate from the coroner.

She tracked down witnesses, one of whom suggested Kevin uttered the word 'mum' at about 4pm.

Her calls for fresh inquests were initially rejected by attorney generals and the European Court of Human Rights.

But following the publication of The Hillsborough Independent Panel's report in 2013, a further appeal by the families of the victims to quash the verdicts was upheld.

A jury at the new inquests in 2016 found the fans had been unlawfully killed after hearing two years of evidence.

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Host: Jamie Barnfield £177

15th Oct 2021 - Cumbria Grand, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

Host: Karl-Harry Winson £185

29th Oct 2021 - Craiglands, ILKLEY

Host: Sandra Speck £165

5th Nov 2021 - Celtic Royal, CAERNARFON

Host: Alison Biggs & Peter Metelnick £165

5th Nov 2021 - North Euston, FLEETWOOD

Host: Karen & Nigel Poll £159

(Partner Dancing)

26th Nov 2021 - Rendezvous, SKIPTON

Host: Sandra Speck £175

27th Dec 2021 - Norbreck, BLACKPOOL

Host: Heather Barton Twixmas £162

27th Dec 2021 - Norbreck, BLACKPOOL

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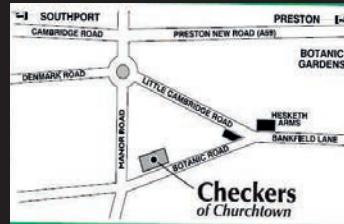
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Grateful Fred's: Americana & Roots Music

First Wednesday of the month
7.30pm

Join the Fredhead's at The Atkinson for a wonderful evening of live acoustic music from some of the best local and international performers.



Ancient Worlds Talks

First Wednesday of the month
7pm

These evening talks are a brilliant way to delve deeper into The Atkinson's museum & exhibitions programme, delivered by a wide range of expert speakers.



Object of The Month Talks

Second Wednesday of the month
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Tips to aging well

As you age, your life will change and you will gradually lose things that previously occupied your time and gave your life purpose. But this is not a time to stop moving forward. Later life can be a time of exciting new adventures if you let it.



If you're not sure where to get started, try some of the following suggestions: Pick up a long-neglected hobby or try a new one. Taking a class or joining a club is a great way to pursue a hobby and expand your social network.

Learn something new, such as an instrument, a foreign language, a new game, or a new sport. Learning new activities not only adds meaning and joy to life, but can also help to maintain your brain health and prevent mental decline. Get involved in your community. Try attending a local event or volunteering for a cause that's important to you. Travel somewhere new or go on a weekend trip to a place you've never visited.

Spend time in nature. Take scenic walks, go fishing or camping, enjoy a ski trip, or simply walk the dog in the park.

Enjoy the arts. Visit a museum, go to a concert or a play, join a book group, or take an art appreciation class.

Stay connected

It's important to find ways to reach out and connect to others, regardless of whether or not you live with a spouse or partner. Along with regular exercise, staying social can have the most impact on your health as you age.

Connect regularly with friends and family. Spend time with people you enjoy and who make you feel upbeat. It may

be a neighbour who you like to exercise with, a lunch date with an old friend, shopping with your children, or playing with your grandchildren. Make an effort to make new friends. Make it a point to befriend people who are younger than you. Younger friends can reenergise you and help you see life from a fresh perspective.

Spend time with at least one person every day. Whatever your living or work situation, you shouldn't be alone day after day. Regular face-to-face contact helps you ward off depression and stay positive.

Volunteer

Giving back to the community is a wonderful way to strengthen social bonds and meet others interested in similar activities, who share similar values. Even if your mobility becomes limited, you can get involved by volunteering on the phone.

Keep your mind sharp

Challenge your brain. For some people, challenging your brain could involve playing new games or sports. Other people may enjoy puzzles or trying out new cooking recipes. Find something that you enjoy and challenge your brain by trying new variations or increasing how well you do an activity.

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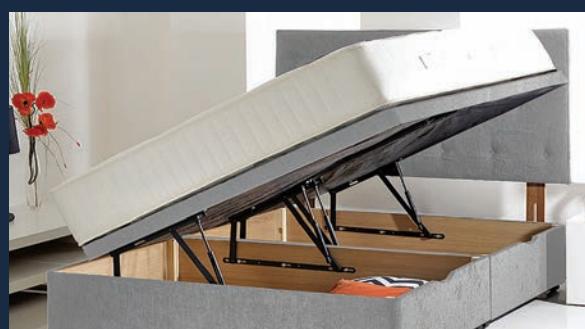
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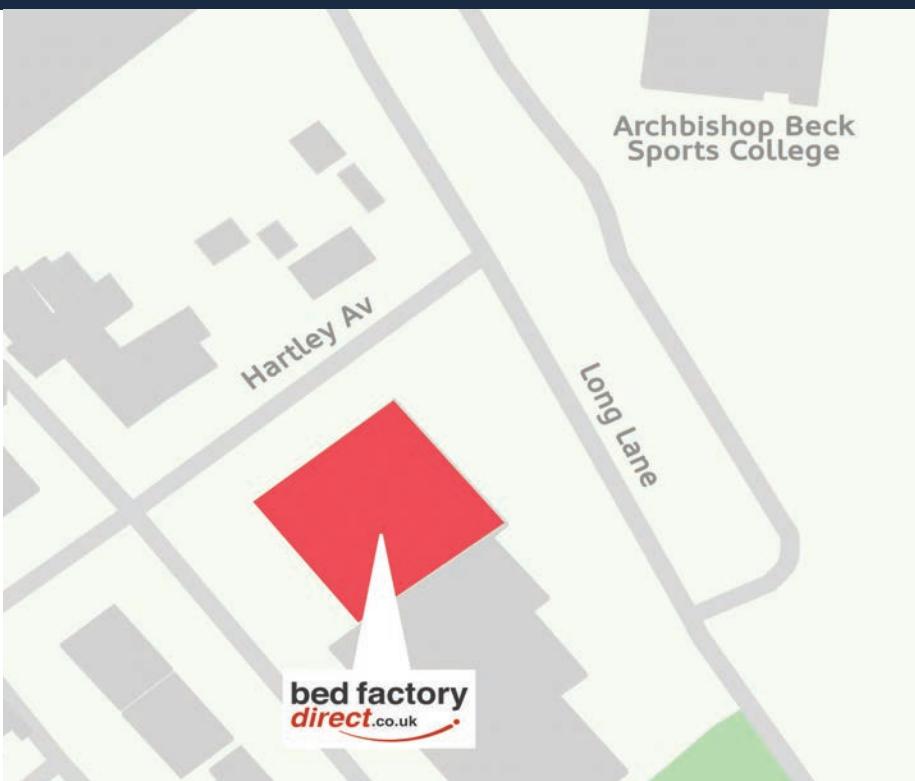


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Visitor numbers to resort reaches five million so far this year as footfall increases

Report by Tom Martin

MORE than five million people have visited Southport already this year, according to new figures released last week.

A huge number of people from across the UK, including West Lancashire, have travelled to the resort in 2021 to enjoy the local amenities.

The total number of visitors for the year to date is 5,065,024, which is 5.1% higher than 2019, which is the last normal trading year before the Covid pandemic.

The impressive footfall figures have been compiled by Springboard Research Ltd.

Southport BID Business Engagement Manager Luke Randles, has welcomed the figures.

He said: "After the difficulties that businesses have faced over the last 18 months, it's fantastic to see how our town centre is emerging stronger than ever."

"These footfall figures reaffirm the recent feedback we have received from both Southport businesses and residents, and show just how important high-quality retail is to our high streets."

"This data, coupled with the recent streak of news regarding investment, shows that Southport has the infrastructure in place to continue with a positive trend."



It's fantastic news, says Cllr Marion Atkinson

The increased footfall comes after the new Beales department store opened earlier this month as well as the new Southport Market food, drink and events venue.

Staycation boom

Southport has also been buoyed by the current UK staycation boom with attractions such as Southport Pleasureland now fully operational after lockdown, and popular events such as the British Musical Fireworks, Southport Food and Drink Festival and Southport Comedy Festival all returning.

Southport Business Improvement District (Southport BID) working with contractors IllumiDex UK Ltd created 'a boulevard of light' with 300,000 lights

along the mile-long Lord Street earlier this year to boost the town's night-time economy.

And the £38.5million awarded to Southport by the Government through the Towns Fund is set to secure schemes including a new Lakeside Events Centre.

Sefton Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills Cllr Marion Atkinson said: "It's fantastic news that there has been an increase in footfall in Southport this year and indicates a step in the right direction as we look for the local economy to bounce back post-pandemic."

"It also demonstrates the clear confidence being shown by private investors right here in Sefton."

"The new Southport Market has been open just short of a month now and the overall feedback has been extremely positive. Tens of thousands of residents and visitors have sampled the amazing food and drink on offer there, and I'm certain that their visits are translating into a much-needed boost for other business across the town centre."

"The wider benefits of the council's investment in Southport is already becoming apparent, not only with the increased footfall but a number of longer-term vacant units around the market now becoming occupied."

"We look forward to implementing more exciting plans at Southport Market, plus we have the hugely exciting Events Centre to come as the next stage of the Southport Town Deal."

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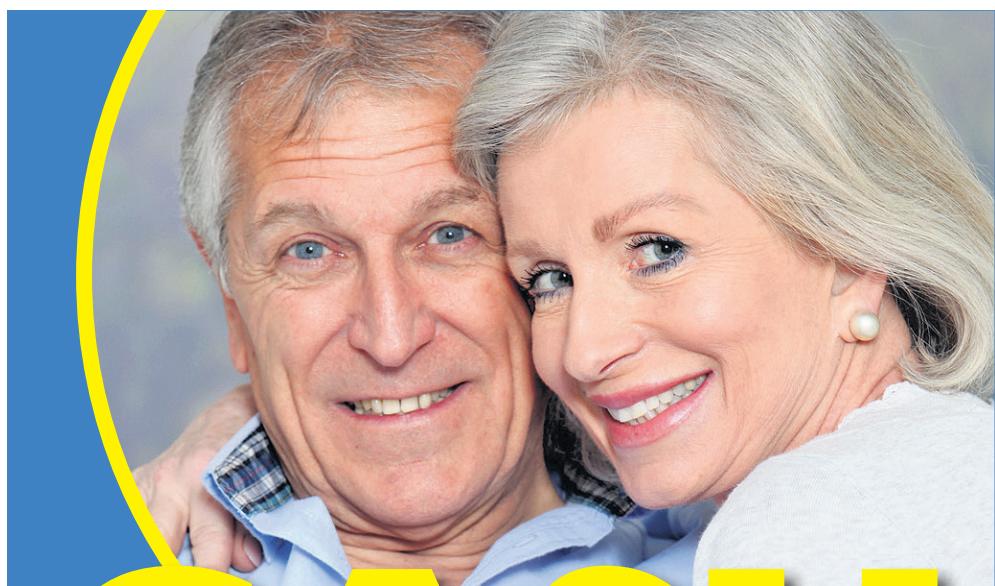
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Still time to have your say on proposals for popular tourist spot

Report by Tom Martin

WEST Lancashire residents can have a say on how a popular tourist spot in Sefton could be improved.

A consultation on Ainsdale-on-Sea will end on September 30 and already more than 300 people have taken part.

Further feedback is welcomed to ensure that as many people as possible can help shape future proposals for investment in the area.

During 2020, an extensive consultation with residents, business owners, visitors and young people took place as part of the now successful Southport Town Deal bid.

It was recognised by a large number of respondents that the beachfront area at 'Ainsdale-on-Sea' is in need of investment to improve its facilities for residents and visitors alike.

The consultation asks for views on the wider development of the coastal gateway including the Sands Lake and Hotel area, Toad Hall and Ainsdale Discovery Centre.

It is also an opportunity for residents and regular beach users to offer ideas for how Ainsdale-on-Sea could be improved for all, from better traffic management to projects that would ensure Ainsdale's rare habitats and species are able to thrive.

Cllr Ian Moncur, Sefton Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, said: "We recognise the need to create high quality visitor infrastructure at a number of access points along the Sefton coast, to drive growth within the visitor economy and provide a high-quality visitor experience."

"This will also reduce visitor pressure on our coastal communities as well as areas of high conservation



Ainsdale beach food and drink concession trial, B-Eat On The Street, manager Alex with Cllr Ian Moncur and Green Sefton staff earlier this summer

value – protecting our special wildlife and landscape.

"Ainsdale-on-Sea has been recognised as one of these key access points and we are keen to hear what our residents would like to see prioritised as we draw up our development plans for the area to complement the investment already underway."

Many visitors to Ainsdale this summer will have already seen some of the initiatives being funded by the council to improve the experience for beach goers, showcasing the possibilities being explored that could form part of the longer-term rejuvenation of the area.

A posh fish and chip pop-up has proven incredibly popular and will continue to serve up food and drinks at the beach until the autumn.

Meanwhile, award-winning street artist Paul Curtis is part way through transforming the exterior of Toad Hall with a vibrant mural – the largest commission he's ever undertaken.

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Fab five for Skem in Cup encounter

Report by Simon Driscoll

Irlam 1 Skelmersdale United 5

IT was a stunning away win for United in the Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round as they stormed to a 5-1 victory over Irlam.

Manager Paul McNally made two changes from Tuesday's win at Charnock Richard with Mikey Howard promoted from the bench in place of Danny Mitchley, who had a slight knock, while Elliot Morris replaced Freddie Potter, who returned to parent club City of Liverpool.

A traditionally rapid start from United on the road saw Tom Croughan hitting over the bar in the opening minute before Mikey Howard's low cross drew a save from Irlam 'keeper Lee White.

White was called into action again with an acrobatic stop from Howard's angled effort with both Croughan and Baba Conteh heading past the post from crosses. The pressure paid off on 17 minutes as a through pass from Kenny Strickland found the run of Howard who advanced on goal and tucked the ball past White for 1-0.

Callum Nicholas swept a curling free-kick over the bar before Max Bardsley-Rowe forced a strong stop from Ben Barnes with Mike Grogan blocking a rebounded effort from Jordan Icely.

Despite Irlam's pressure on their goal it was Skem who struck next, Howard doubling the lead on 42 minutes with a penalty for 2-0 after Conteh had been upended by Karl Cassell.

The second half saw United's threat continue, a clever interception and run from Howard seeing him curl an effort around the far post before Matty Hamilton and



Skem's Kenny Strickland blocks an Irlam shot on Saturday. Photo by John Driscoll

Croughan forced low saves from White.

Irlam suffered a blow on 52 minutes as just over a minute after coming on, Connor Martin was sent off after a clash with Conteh and their woes increased further when Croughan swept a shot into the bottom corner for a 3-0 lead on 56 minutes.

The hosts defied their man disadvantage to threaten the score with Bardsley-Rowe's powerful shot drawing a low stop from Barnes.

United resumed their pressure with an advantage played after Howard was felled, seeing Hamilton pick out the run of substitute Elliot Morris who forced a save from White.

United's spot in the next round was secured with five minutes remaining, Howard and Morris combined to find substitute Richard Brodie, who rifled the ball past the diving White for a 4-0 lead.

The goals continued into the final minutes with a sweeping effort from Morris taking a deflection to send it past White for 5-0 before United's hopes of a clean sheet were dashed by Nicholas's lofted shot which flew past Barnes in the final seconds to give the hosts a consolation.

Late goals deny Linnets

Burscough 1 Padiham 2

BURSCOUGH looked on course for three points at home on Saturday but were denied by a two goal salvo that arrived six minutes from full time at the Community Ground, writes Neil Leatherbarrow.

The game itself was a struggle between two teams determined not to concede any ground to each other and was in essence fairly forgettable, but it had a couple of magnificent goals that will long remain in the minds of those present.

Chances were rare in a scrappy first half, the highlights being a good opportunity for Burscough's Conor Christiansen that missed the target and a header from Padiham's Mark Woods that was saved by Linnets keeper Joe Waugh.

If the first period had been a bit of a dud, the second half was ignited within seconds. Vinny Bailey received the ball from

Josh Quarless wide on the left and cut in towards goal, he then unleashed a thunderous right-foot curler across Padiham goalkeeper Matt Hamnett into the far top corner. Only 17 seconds had elapsed and a number who were slow taking their positions to watch the game missed it.

Padiham responded with a shot from Woods that was comfortably saved by Waugh but Burscough went on the attack too and Quarless clipped the ball over the crossbar.

Ryan McKenna put a header over the Burscough crossbar in the 57th minute, but Burscough seemed to be holding out well and there was genuine expectation for a Linnets victory.

Gradually Padiham built up more of the possession as the game went into the last ten minutes, however in the 81st minute there was a warning, when the visitors substitute Issac Jones got in at the far post,

but his header was weak and Waugh gathered the ball well.

In the 84th minute a bit of inspiration from Jones changed the game. Luke Merrill played a short pass to Jones, who was 25 yards from goal in space, he took one touch and lifted a dipping shot over Linnets keeper Waugh and it was 1-1 with everything to play for again.

Two minutes later Jones hoisted a fairly innocuous looking cross from the left to the far post, Marcus Perry ran in between two Burscough defenders and just about steered a stooping header inside the post. It was now 2-1 to Padiham.

Burscough pushed to salvage something but Padiham were now in no mood to allow Burscough back, the best the Linnets could produce was a shot from 20 yards by Lewis Sinnott that was grasped by keeper Hamnett.

United get a tough draw in next round

UNITED have not had any luck in the draw for the FA Cup First Qualifying Round, coming out of the pot away to Northern Premier League Premier Division Radcliffe Borough on September 4, writes Neil Leatherbarrow.

On paper a tough draw for Skem, however there might be a glimpse of hope for Paul McNally's lads, Radcliffe were expected to be among the top sides in their division and they haven't exactly set the world on fire with only three points from three league games, so Skem who

flourish in the FA Cup will have their opponents slightly worried too.

On Saturday, August 28 Skem are away to Vauxhall Motors for the second time this season and on Bank Holiday Monday they are at the JMO Sports Park for a 3pm kick off at home to Litherland Remyca.

Burscough have only one game this weekend. On Bank Holiday Monday, they have a difficult away game at Longridge Town, 3pm kick off.

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DOUBLE BED Frame, ottoman style (end opening) in white lots of storage space hardly used 10 months old bargain £230 ono 07935641474

JOHN LEWIS Jayne Antique brass & white, double head & footboard only, brand new in box. Bargain priced £65.00 ono 4 Details. 07980 162415

THREE TABLES Corona nest of tables 3 mexican solid pine side/end tables brand new and have been assembled. £35.00 07790791733

WALL MIRROR Lovely wall mirror In good condition, with wall fixing brackets. Can be hung horizontally or vertically, 51x11 £10 07387439004

COFFEE TABLE Large tempered glass top with verde gris finish decorative cast iron base. Excellent condition. H 16 W53 D28 inches. £90 May deliver 01704560150

CONSOLE TABLE Habitat Hana II Oiled Oak console table with 3 draws, beautiful design in excellent condition L113cm H77cm D37cm £150 ono 07876 701547

CORNERS CABINET Freestanding tall teak GPLAN Fresco unit with glass doors & shelves cupboard , under shelf lighting & bottom wooden storage cupboard £195 07763321906

HIGH BACK CHAIR Winged high back fireside chair in dusty pink velvet. Upholstered arms and Queen Anne legs. Sturdy VGC. £55 May deliver 01704560150

HOUSE AND HOME

OVERMANTLE MIRROR John Lewis Gilt framed Arch Top mirror 48" tall 43.5" wide. Good condition. £55.00. 01772 437101

PANDORA BRACELET Genuine brand new pandora bracelet/bangle in original packaging. Flower clasp 6.5cm wide. 22cm length £40 017835768013

SIDE TABLE 80cm high x42cm width. Solid mahogany colour. Traditional style with two solid wood drawers. Excellent condition. Bargain £12 07984547385

SUN LOUNGER British Made, tubular steel frame, reclines and has thick removable cushion. really comfortable. Just £15 01695422077

WINE GLASSES Six wine glasses/champagne flutes, lead crystal, made in Austria by Inn Crystal. In original box, very fine delicate glasses £25 07762 078984

BEREAVEMENT FURNITURE recliner chair & matching 2 seater, coffee tables, modern bedroom furniture, fire surround with coal effect electric fire etc. No reasonable offer refused. Buyer collects. 01704533885

SIEMENS FRIDGE/FREEZER tall, black and silver, excellent condition, £250 ono. Panasonic oven, combination oven/grill/steam, stainless silver, black, excellent condition £150 ono 01704 233093

WASHER/DRYER SAMSUNG 8kg/6kg White. E rated cost £639 18/12/20 with 5yr warranty, model number WD80T534DBW/S1 can be seen online. Genuine reason for sale £350.00 01772 816434

AWNING PEGS Large amount of excellent metal and plastic pegs for awning/tents. Used but plenty of wear still left in them £25 07935641474

CARBOOT ITEMS Over 60 good car boot items including some new items included, also 20 items of quality clothes. £35 07387439004

CATH KIDSTON PURSE Original Cath Kidston purse. Brand new. With tag and packaging white with blue/yellow flowers £14 01704896939

HOUSE AND HOME

MICROWAVE OVEN Hitachi MR6450 Two tone brown. Clean condition. Slight burn marks inside bottom of door. Inherited, surplus to requirements. £10 01695 624223

STRESSLESS CHAIR Cream Ekornes Stressless small consul chair and stool, very good condition, bought December 2018: Must be able to collect £550 0151 5268421

1990S SUBBUTEO Teams 7 complete in boxes Liverpool everton man utv etc bargain the lot £70 07773242918

AWNNG RUBBER Ladders. Used but still in good condition. Large box of them for £5 07935641474

BLACK BACKPACK made by Express with 2 zipped pockets. Brand New (never been used) £7.50 ono 07984 649665

CHILD'S ELECTRIC sports car, parent remote control, music and sounds, 2 speed, very good condition £60. 01704 841576

DESKTOP READING LAMP white £2. CD tower H190cm W20cm D20cm £6. Kern Pail-lard lens YVAR1:2.8 F 36mm AR464291 bargain £12. 01704 547066

LANDROVER MAGAZINES A selection of 19 old magazines in good condition, 2010(1) 2012(3) 2013(5) 2014(8) 2015 (1) 2016(1) All for £9 07387439004

MASSAGER SHIATSU 2 in 1 back and shoulder massager with heat, 6 programmes and adjustable width rolling action. Great condition, boxed £40 07952 556674

BATHROOM MIRROR Infinity white LED mirror 70cmx50cm, in original padded/shrink wrapping, on/off switch, cost £190, photos available, £120 no offers, genuine reason for sale 0151 5262992

BATTERY CHARGER and two 75 amp batteries. All new £250 01704231884

BED PAD Vivactive washable bed pad unopened 85cm x 85cm cost £14 sell £7 07464781725

WHEELCHAIR lightweight, folding wheelchair, padded seat cushion £40 07847911088

MISC

ROCK-OLA JUKEBOX (449) in excellent condition with records. £600 (Buyer collects) Tel. 01695 624223

DARTBOARD NEW good quality one bargain £15 07773242918

PAPER SHREDDER boxed, excellent condition £20 01704 841576

PICTURE FRAMES 12 plastic picture frames in shiny black colour. Size 10"X8". Ideal for art projects. £5. Southport area. Tel. 07757053088

MOBILITY

MOBILITY SCOOTER Elite Traveller, serviced & new batteries £350 Tel 01704 512992

MISC

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS

Side table, storage box, mirror, kitchen ware, folding chairs, wicker shopping basket, cds, wooden step ladder and new general gifts, shelving. From £5 07387439004

HIGHER NATIONAL science and engineering materials book by Donald Askeland ISBN 053455396 understanding structures processing material properties, mint £5 01704 8704835

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MOBILITY

DISABILITY AIDS Perching stool and toilet frame, both adjustable and as new condition very clean no damage £15 07933740677

WALKING FRAME 4 wheels, seat, shopping bag, under seat backrest, dark red, never used £40. May deliver 07525 797328

SELF PROPELLED lightweight wheelchair, Zee tec top quality dual brakes padded upholstery solid tyres quick release wheels £65 07810 701926

TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR light-weight adult Ergo115, quick release wheels, folds, small attendant operated brakes, little used £60 07525 797328

WASHABLE BED PAD Vivactive brand new not opened washable bed pad 85 x 85cms, waterproof backing, highly absorbent, cost £15, sell £7 07464781725

MOTHER AND BABY

BABY BOUNCER/ROCKER with removable rotating toy bar, pastel colours £4 01704 895065

HIGH CHAIR Mamas & Papas, white and pastel colours, adjustable £10 01704 895065

MOSES BASKET white broderie anglaise with collapsible brass stand, great condition £10 01704 895065

GRO EGG Room Thermometer & Night light for baby or elderly hardly used no wear good as new cost £25 sell £12 07464781725

LARGE TOBY JUG Doulton, Rob-in Hood, Coalport, small lady figures £15 each. Large Spode bird plate £8. Small coffee set, gold pattern 07850 551591

PRAM Mamas & Papas, dark blue, small white dots, classic chassis and removeable carrycot, converts into pushchair £40 07952 556674

MOTHER AND BABY

GRACE TRAVELCOT Graco contour Electra cream travelcot with musical module. 2 mattresses 1 mattresscover. Packs up into compact travelbag with wheels £50 greatcond 01704869393

MOTORING

CAR RAMPS Set of car ramps £25 01695 229320

MAZDA WHEEL Brand New 19" Wheel & Tyre for Mazda CX5 with bag. £25 ono. 07912 566285

MERCEDES WHEEL Brand New 18" Space Saver for C Class 2015 to present day with bag. £20 ono. 07912 566285

RUNNING BOARD Range Rover Vogue drivers side running board 2009 with flaps, brand new £60 still in wrapper 07502455388

VAUXHALL MERIVA Boot liner. Keeps carpet protected, easy to clean, Bargain price £20.00 07980 162415

DISCS & PADS (New) for Discovery & Evogue, 3 sets pads full set of discs plus sensors, plus roof rack, Tel Ormskirk £45 07979466002

STEERINGWHEEL LOCK Car steering wheel lock. Stoplock Pulsar brand with security light. Unused with 5 year warranty. £15 0151 9204835

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE 1.8T Electric Softtop Metallic Black, RS4 Wheels, Recent Service. Sat Nav Upgrade, excellent condition, Mot/JAN22 100k miles, 4x new tyres, £3990 07837473149

PETS

DOG COLLAR Buster Inflatable Dog Collar -XL- bought for a Labrador. Perfect condition £11.00 07745132178

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GOLF CLUBS Acer flow eight 3 - SW steel shafts erg flex good condition £20 07706878261

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BIG BERTHA WOODS 1.3.5 graphite shafts reg. flex std. length head covers £20 07706878261

EXERCISE WHEEL Super Slider exerciser wheel. Boxed, as new including kneeling mat. £2 07871961870

FISHING REELS Ocumia XR30 and Kingfisher 300X with scales, lead shot, new floats £15 01704 501740 501897

TAYLOR MADE sldr 3 wood graphite shaft reg. flex head cover excellent condition £20 07706878261

CARRERA BIKE Carrera Blast 20" wheels red + black very good condition great 1st real bike for any child £50 ovno Maghull 01515319764/07703183508

FENCING SABRE by Leon Paul non electric length 41" leather bound handle aluminium shield carbon blade excellent condition £24 01704 874084

GOLF CLUBS A set of 3 titanium woods (1,3,5) - Ben Sayers. Fitted with graphite regular flex shafts. Excellent condition. £45 07751066147

GOLF IRONS Mizuno JPX921 hot metal 5-PW Project X Reg shaft, standard length & lie, exc cond, nearly new £570 ono. 07874600914

TAEKWONDO KIT White suit (dobok) and white head-guard for beginner, age 10-12, height of suit 160cm, Unite branded, vgc, £15 07932 818655

WILSON PUTTER Deep red centre shaft mallet putter with new Winn grip and Odyssey Stroke Lab head cover. Excellent condition £35 07754888514

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• Bridge Street, Chapel Mews, Chapel Moss, Chapel Street, Moss View, Small Lane

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• Acrefield, Doe Meadow, Pine Close, Tabby's Nook, Woodrow Drive

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SCARISBRICK

• Bescar Brow Lane, Bullens Lane, Church Garage, Jacksmere Lane, Southport Road

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• Fairlie, Fairstead, Heathgate

TANHOUSE

• Eskbrook, Eskdale

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WESTHEAD

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 12

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team
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or check-out our website
www.champnews.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

DEATHS

HALSALL GILLIAN

26th August 1963



No longer in our
lives to share
But in our hearts
you are always there.

Miss you so much,
Love Mum and
all the Family
xx

Passed away on
August 14th 2021,
aged 88

Much loved and
cherished mum
to Kathy and Lee,
mother in law to
John and grandma to
Megan and Bethany.

She will be greatly
missed by all her
family.

All Enquires to
Hunters Funeral
Directors
128b Burscough
Street
Ormskirk, L39 2EY
Tel 01695 572997

SMITH LILY

Passed away peacefully
on 8th August 2021
Aged 91 years.

Dearly loved Wife of
the late Eddie. Much
loved Mum and Nana.
She will be loved and
missed by all her
family and friends.

Funeral Service
at Southport
Crematorium
on Friday 27th August
2021 at 12 noon.
Family Flowers only
please by request but
donations
if so desired to
Queenscourt Hospice.

For further enquiries
to Lisa Hunter, MLS
Independent
Funeral Directors, 20
Moss Delph Lane,
Aughton, L39 5DZ.
Tel: 01695 424888.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

CHIN ERIC

20th August 1941

My darling Eric the
3rd birthday that we
are apart.

No hugs, no kisses,
no smiles or laughter.
No gifts or
celebrations.

Instead I hold on to all
the happy memories
and the love I will
forever hold for you.

Love and kisses from
your forever Wife
Jacqueline
XXX

MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in
the past I have asked for
many favours, this time
I ask for a special favour
(name it). Take it dear
Jesus and place it within
Your one broken Heart
where Your Father sees it.
Then in His merciful eyes
it will become Your favour
and not mine.

Amen

Say this Prayer for 3 days,
promise publication and
the Prayer will be granted
no matter how impossible.
J.L.



To place a family
announcement
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or visit champnews.com



CORLESS STAN

The Family of the late Stan Corless would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives friends and neighbours, for all their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for The Medical Day Unit Trust Fund received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Husband, Dad, Grandad, and Great Grandad.

Thanks also to Rev. Ross Moughtin for his kind words of comfort.

A special thanks to all the Guardian carers for their love and support over the past year and Abbeywood Care Home for the care and attention given to Stan, and Anabel Hunter from MLS Independent Funeral Directors for her care and guidance given during such a difficult time.

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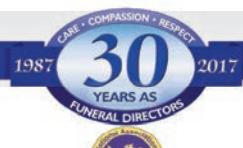


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DEATHS

DEATHS

**BEVERLEY
HARRISON**

18th August 2021
Peacefully in
Queenscourt Hospice
Aged 75 Years

Loving Mother to Kate and Nana to Oscar and Samson Harrison. You will be truly missed by the family and many people you have touched through the years with your radiant smile and kindness. Fly high Mum.

A Funeral Service will be held at St Cuthberts Church, Churchtown on Friday 3rd of September at 12 noon, followed by a committal at Southport Crematorium at 1pm. Donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice in lieu of flowers

c/o Len at Southport Funeral Care, 25/27 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB Tel: 01704 547274.

**CRITCHLEY
CHARLES
HENRY
(HARRY)**

15th August 2021.

Loving Husband to Pat. Loving Father to Ian & Ralph and a Loving Grandfather to Josh, Megan, Tom, Charlie & Olivia. Sadly missed by all the family.

Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, on Thursday 26th August at 10.00am. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired are being gratefully received for Parkinson's UK.

Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

**GILLETT
JOHN
EDWARD**

12th August
Aged 55 Years
Peacefully in

Queenscourt Hospice, having lost his bravely borne battle with illness.

Much loved by his Family and many friends. John will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Service will be held at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 1st September at 3pm, the Family has requested any donations in lieu of flowers be made payable to Queenscourt Hospice or MIND.

C/o Len, Southport Funeral Care Ltd, 25/27 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB Tel: 01704 547274.

**MORTON
JEAN**

Passed away peacefully at home
on 16th August 2021
Aged 83 years.

Dearly Loved Wife of the late Johnny. Much loved Mum of Steven, Glyn and Natalie. Loving Nan, Great Nan and Great Great Nan, loved and missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 31st August 2021 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.

Further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough. Tel: 01704 891555



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Witham Road SKELMERSDALE
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Elizabeth House
57a Cottage Lane ORMSKIRK
01695 581769

SCARISBRICK
01704 892191

Announcements

DEATHS

**MILLS
JOY**

Passed away peacefully at home on 12th August 2021
Aged 64 years of Ormskirk

Loved by Brother Brian and Sister-in-law Desna Will be missed by all of her family and friends

Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 1st September at 2pm.

Family flowers only but donations if so desired are for Cancer Research and Freshfields Animal Rescue.

For further requires please contact Sally Ann Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 5DZ Tel: 01695 424888

**SLINGER
DEBBIE**

Passed away peacefully at home
17th August 2021
Aged 61 years

Beloved Daughter of Brenda Hale and the late Jim Slinger. Sister to Jacqueline and Mark (Deceased). Aunty to Joanna, Craig, Abigail and Elizabeth. Half sister to Jane, Helen and Sam

Funeral Service to be held at All Saints Church, Hesketh Bank at 09.45 on Monday 6th September 2021 followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough.

Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice c/o the funeral director

All enquiries to Neal Buckley Funeral Home, 49 Church Road, Tarleton, Lancashire, PR4 6UQ Tel: 01772 301700.

**ROWLANDSON
PATRICIA
MARGARET**

On 13th August 2021 Peacefully at Abbenden Nursing Home
Aged 81 Years

Beloved Wife of the late John. Dearly loved Mum to Michelle and Sue and dear Mother-in-Law to Keith and Jonathan. Beloved Grandmother to Kerri, Lee, Laura, Jonathan and Scott. Beloved Sister of Leslie, Valerie and Steven and Sister-in-Law to Anne, Lin, Jean, Colin, Doris, Alan and Sheila and a dear Aunty.

Funeral service and cremation to take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 1st September at 11am Family flowers only by request. Donations if so desired can be made to PSPA

Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG Tel: 01704 214118

**BRADDOCK
RONALD
AGED 86 YEARS**

**BRADDOCK
BARBARA
AGED 87 YEARS**

Both died
12th August 2021
after short illnesses

Parents to Sue and John, grandparents to Andrew, Emma and Leanne and Great Grandparents to Bonita, Lucy, Lenny, Arlo and Ilaria.

The funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 2nd September 2021 at 2:00pm. Relaxed, colourful clothing requested. Family flowers only however donations are being gratefully received for Peacehaven House Care Home.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Tel: 01704 500086.

**GREEN
EDWINA**
Late of Ormskirk,
Welsh by birth

Passed peacefully away on 10th August at home with all of her family

Dearly loved Wife of the late Reg Green, beloved Mother of Karen, Chris and Judith, she was also an adored Grandmother.

Edwina will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Edwina's funeral service will take place on Tuesday 31st August at 10am at Burscough Crematorium.

By request family flowers only but donations may be kindly made to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) in Edwina's memory, via Hunters Funeral Directors.

All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk, L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

**CLARKSON
JOHN FRANCIS**

August 6th 2021

Aged 69 years

Beloved husband of Tina, dearly loved son of Val and the late Frank and cherished son in law of Ralph and the late Chris. Loving brother of Cathy and Anne and brother in law of Gary, John, Kevin and the late Kim, Steve and Tony. Much loved uncle of his many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews and a dear nephew and cousin to Terry and family.

John will be missed greatly by all his family and friends.

Funeral to be held at 11.30 am on Tuesday 31st August, 2021 at SS Peter and Paul's RC Church, Crosby, followed by a private committal for family only at Thornton Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, but donations are gratefully received by Jospice.

All enquiries c/o Co-Operative Funeralcare, 2 St Ambrose Grove, Liverpool L4 2RL Tel: 0151 263 2791

**MOSES
CAROL
ELIZABETH**

Passed away on 14th August 2021 at Home, Aged 74 years of Ormskirk



Beloved Mum of Gail. Devoted Nanna to Ebony.

Dearly loved Mother in law to Darren. She will be loved and missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Service and interment at Ormskirk Parish Church on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 1:30pm.

If any family or friends would like to send flowers for the funeral or have any further enquiries please contact Anabel Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888

**FRANCISCO
'PACO'
REPISO**

Passed away suddenly in hospital on 14th August 2021, aged 62



Much loved Husband of Paula, Father to Liam and Dean, and Grandad to Harry and Max.

Paco was well-liked by all who knew him and will be sadly missed by all his family & friends. May he rest in peace.

Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 2nd September at 3pm. Family flowers only, family are gratefully receiving donations for Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

For further enquiries please contact Moisters Funeralcare, 25A Sefton Street, Southport PR8 6SG Tel: 01704 501501.

Family Announcement? 01704 392392

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Family Announcement? 01704 392392

**ANN
MAUREEN
CONNOR**

Suddenly, peacefully, at Cedar Grange on Sunday 8th August 2021 Aged 82 years.

Reunited with loving Wife Marlene.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral service at St Thomas' Church, Lydiate on Thursday August 26th at 12:00 noon, followed by burial at St Thomas' Churchyard.

Donations, if desired, for Epilepsy Society.

All further enquiries c/o Andrew Roughley Independent Funeral Directors, 13-14 Central Square, Maghull, L31 0AE. Tel: 0151 433 8820.

Much loved Mum of John & Jeff. Will be sadly missed by all her family & friends.

Funeral service & cremation at Southport Crematorium Thursday 2nd September at 1.00pm.

Family flowers only by request please but donations are being gratefully received for Dementia UK & Cedar Grange.

Further Enquiries please to Moisters Funeral Directors, 25a Sefton Street, Southport PR8 6SG. Tel: 01704 501501.

**BERKLEY
GARY**

on 12th August 2021
Suddenly in hospital
Aged 61 Years

Loving partner of Jackie. Devoted Dad of Gemma. Cherished Son of Jean and Arthur (Dec'd). Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service will take place today Wednesday 25th August at West Lancashire Crematorium.

Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation.

All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DAVID WILKINSON
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Chat to us your LOCAL INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTOR about a new or existing funeral plan, we are here to advise and help

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Golden Charter

Announcements

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

**BOLGER
ROBERT
FRANCIS**

Suddenly at home
on 12th August 2021
Aged 62 Years

Dearly beloved Son of Maureen.
Much loved Dad of Martin.
Brother of Michelle and Alan.
Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service will take place at St John Stone RC Church Ainsdale on Thursday 2nd September at 1pm, followed by the committal at Sacred Heart Cemetery Ainsdale.

Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving charitable donations in Robert's name.

Further enquiries please to: Moisters Funeralcare, 8 Station Road, PR8 3HS. Tel: 01704 575282

**BOLGER
ROBERT
FRANCIS**

6th August 1959
to
12th August 2021

Devoted Husband and Father

You slipped away suddenly without a fuss, leaving a gaping hole in our hearts.

A fond farewell to our rock, our anchor.

All our love
Joan and son Martin.

**BOLGER
ROBERT
FRANCIS**

Robert you will live forever in our hearts, for nothing loved is ever lost and you were loved so much.

From Kenny, Joan and all the Latham family

**COOPER
JACQUELINE**

16th August 2021
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 67 years
of Skelmersdale.

The dearly loved Wife of GEORGE. loving Mum of Mary, Francis, John and Luke. A dear Mother in law and devoted Nan to all her Grandchildren.

Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 26th August 2021 at 3pm.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

**COOPER
JACQUELINE**

(Nee Healey)
(Nee Newnes)

16th August 2021

Where do i start,
Where do i begin.

I never wanted this day to come.
I have lost my Mum, my best friend.

The memories i have of you will never be taken away,
They will stay in my heart forever.

I wasn't ready for the footprints in the sand to be yours i was here, i would of carried you to the end of the earth to keep you with us.

I have lost my best friend, my kids have lost their beautiful Nan.

Those pearly gates will be open wide,
Your family standing side by side,
To greet their baby Sister with arms open wide.

Goodnight, Godbless My beautiful Mum

Your heartbroken Son Luke and Dugther in law Cheryl XX

**COOPER
JACQUELINE**

(Nee Healey)
16th August 2021

Mum, Wife, Nan, Sister, Aunt and friend.
Mum, you will be missed by everybody you knew. You were a special person and life will never be the same without you.

We wil miss you so much, but you are with your family now.
Jay, Sian, Molly and Elle.
XX

**COOPER
JACQUELINE**

Angels above, look after our Nanny Jackie.
Good night, God bless.

Love your heartbroken Grandchildren JJ, Luka, Rocco and your little diamond Vito
XXXX

**COOPER
JACKIE**

Nee Healey
Nee Newnes
"Nana Jackie"

Peacefully passed away on 16th August 2021

My beautiful Nana, i will miss you so much, the time we spent together was filled with love and laughter.

I will always remember you and keep our memories close.

Blowing you a kiss goodnight

Love you always Your Frankie boy X

Forever in our hearts Mum

Until we meet again All our love Frankie and Gemma X

All enquiries to Broadben & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport, PR8 4AG. Tel: 01704 550055

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SARAH ELEANOR LEADBETTER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Kayleig, Inwardleigh, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3AN, who died on 28/01/2021, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 27/10/2021, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GILBERT STEPHENS LLP,
9 Red Lion Yard Okehampton Devon EX20 1AW

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005 Application for a Premises Licence to be granted

The Barn, Cedar Farm, Back Lane, Mawdesley, Lancs, L40 3SY
TAKE NOTICE, Katie Baillie, has made an application, pursuant to Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003, for a Premises Licence to be granted in respect of the premises detailed above. A statement of the licensable activities proposed to be carried on is as follows:

The sale of alcohol in designated seating areas indoors and outdoors during the hours of 10am till 8pm Monday to Sunday. The sale of alcohol to take off the premises with food and the sale of alcohol from market stalls.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices, Union St, Chorley, PR7 1AL or online at www.chorley.gov.uk. Any person who wishes to make representations in relation to this application must do so in writing to Licensing, Civic Offices, Union St, Chorley, PR7 1AL or by the online portal.

The final date for representations is 2359hrs on 17/09/21.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is Level 5 on the standard scale.

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LOTTERY RESULTS

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Friday 20th August 2021

£1000.....Mrs Winsor, Old Roan
£250.....Rev Cunningham, Warrington
£100.....Mr Spencer, Litherland
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

Woodlands Hospice LOTTERY

Friday 20th August 2021

***** OUR WINNERS *****

1st Prize	£500	042681Mr R Flinter
2nd Prize	£100	033736Mrs P McDonald
3rd Prize	£50	798160Mrs Lynda Merriman
		075523Mr Gary Smith
4th Prize	£10	061667, 011329, 060482, 020973 & 081030	

QUEENSCOURT LOTTERY DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Jubilee Road, Walmer Bridge.

£1,500 = 25964 £100 = 14293

Winners of £20 are as follows:

24193	28903
346314	15193
66398	188397
287213	13337
29804	338758
11795	206450
142461	11326
55153	77435
195427	13204
304601	210115

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (C142 BANKS ROAD, BANKS, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any class of traffic to proceed over that length of C142 Banks Road, Banks from a point 230m North East of the boundary with Sefton Council for a distance of 50m in a North Easterly direction.

2. Nothing in this notice shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.

3. The prohibition will be operative from 0000 hours on Tuesday 24th August 2021 until 2359 hours on Thursday 26th August 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. A diversion will be signed locally.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow urgent sewer repair works to be carried out by Sapphire Utility Solutions on behalf of United Utilities.

Authority given for this Notice to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/32228/EW/1]

August Bank Holiday DEADLINES

The deadline for Private Advertisers for publication on **Wednesday 1st September** is as follows:
Telephone Bookings 4pm - Friday 27th Aug
Internet Bookings Midnight - Monday 30th Aug

Visit www.champnews.com for further details

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U423 MILL DAM LANE, BURSCOUGH,
WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of U423 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough from A59 Liverpool Road South, Burscough to U424 Manor Avenue, Burscough. 2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works. 3. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0800 hours and 1800 hours from Monday 13th September 2021 until Friday 17th September 2021 or until completion of the works within this period. 4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U424 Manor Avenue, Burscough - U425 Manor Road, Burscough - A59 Liverpool Road South, Burscough and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway inlay works to be carried out by Lancashire County Council - Capital Highways.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/31116/EW]



www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U304 NEW LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of U304 New Lane, Burscough from U3617 Marsh Moss Lane, Burscough for a distance of 45m in a South Easterly direction.

2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.

3. The prohibition will be operative from 0005 hours until 0530 hours on Wednesday 15th September 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U3617 Marsh Moss Lane, Burscough - C137 Tarlscough Lane, Burscough - C137 Red Cat Lane, Burscough - A59 Liverpool Road North, Burscough - A59 Liverpool Road South, Burscough - U300 Higgins Lane, Burscough - U304 New Lane, Burscough and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow annual level crossing servicing works to be carried out by Centurion Site Services on behalf of Network Rail.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/29489/EW]



www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(B5240 HALL LANE, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of B5240 Hall Lane, Lathom from C160 Spa Lane for a distance of 490m in a North Easterly direction.

2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.

3. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0800 hours and 1800 hours from Friday 10th September 2021 until Monday 13th September 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- B5240 Hall Lane, Lathom - B5240 Plough Lane, Lathom - A577 Wigan Road, Lathom - A577 Wigan Road, Westhead - A577 Crosshall Brow, Westhead - A577 Crosshall Brow, Ormskirk - A577 Wigan Road, Ormskirk - A577 Moor Street, Ormskirk - A577 St Helens Road, North Of Park Road - A570 Park Road, Ormskirk - B5197 Aughton Street, Ormskirk - A59 County Road, Ormskirk - A59 Ormskirk - A59 Liverpool Road South, Burscough - A5209 Square Lane, Burscough - A5209 Briars Lane, Burscough - A5209 Briars Lane, Lathom, Lathom - B5240 Hall Lane, Lathom and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway inlay works to be carried out by Lancashire County Council - Capital Highways.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/31114/EW]



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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U1037 VICARAGE LANE, WESTHEAD,
WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of U1037 Vicarage Lane, Westhead from U1034 Ruff Lane, Ormskirk to U1038 Vicarage Close, Westhead.

2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.

3. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1700 hours from Monday 6th September 2021 until Tuesday 7th September 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U1034 Ruff Lane, Ormskirk - U1043 Whiteleys Lane, Ormskirk - U1040 Wellfield Lane, Westhead - U1037 Vicarage Lane, Westhead and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow network maintenance works to be carried out by MJ Quinn on behalf of BT.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/30748/EW]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(C136 WYKE ROAD, SCARISBRICK,
WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of C136 Wyke Road, Scarisbrick from a point 350m south of C131 Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick for a distance of 50m in a Southerly direction.

2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.

3. The prohibition will be operative from 0005 hours until 0530 hours on Tuesday 14th September 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- C136 Wyke Road, Scarisbrick - C136 Wyke Cop Road, Scarisbrick - C136 Snape Green, Scarisbrick - A570 Soutport Road, Scarisbrick - C131 Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick - C136 Wyke Road, Scarisbrick and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow the annual service of the level crossing to be carried out by Centurion Site Services on behalf of Network Rail.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRIT/29488/EW]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15
APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2021/0944/FUL Proposed change of use to 2-4 Ashfield Terrace to convert the existing detached dwelling back into a pair of semi-detached houses. Proposed single storey extension to the side/rear, loft conversion and structural adaptations to No. 4 Ashfield Terrace following the taking down of the existing porch at 2-4 Ashfield Terrace, Appley Bridge. The application affects a Conservation Area.

2021/0958/LBC Listed Building Consent - Replacement of top gates; replacement of bottom gates; extension of towpath-side lock ladder at Lock 2, Wheat Lane, Lathom

The application affects a Conservation Area.

The application affects a Listed Building.

2021/0962/FUL Variation of Condition No 2,3 of Planning Permission 2015/0441 relating to approved drawings/parking provision at 8 Station Road, Parbold

The application affects a Conservation Area.

2021/0972/FUL Proposed single storey extension to plot / flat no2 at 2 St Elizabeths House, Clyffes Farm Close, Scarisbrick

The application affects a Conservation Area.

The application affects a Listed Building.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. If it is not possible for you to view the application via the Council's website, please contact the office to discuss alternative arrangements for viewing the application. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's website, by email to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development, Heritage & Environment Manager, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

If an appeal is made against a decision to refuse to grant planning permission, and that appeal proceeds under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used

Personal data provided by you will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties. Some of this information, including your name and address, will be published. Further information about this is available online at www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning and hard copies are available on request.

Heidi McDougall BSc (Hons), MBA Corporate Director of Place & Community PDNOT1153 Dated: 25th August 2021

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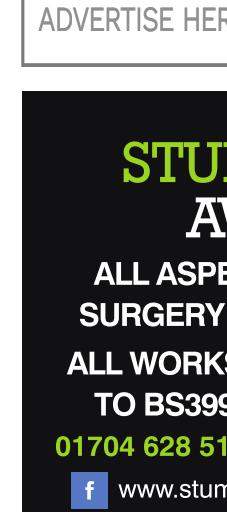
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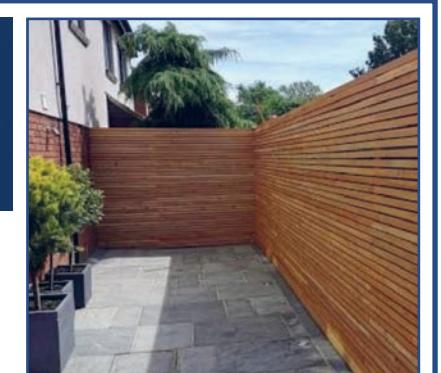
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Toyota win world's toughest motor race for fourth year in a row – yet I didn't catch a single moment of it



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TOP WORK, Toyota. You've won the world's toughest motor race for the fourth year on the trot – and you get flag-waving bonus points because one of the drivers who made it happen was a Brit.

Yet I'm ashamed to say I didn't catch a single moment of this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans, and nor do I know anyone else who did, either. Surely, as someone who's visited this historic circuit twice and loves nothing more than the howl of a highly tuned endurance racer at full chat, I'd be all over it, but nope. In fact, to see the action unfold at Arnage and the Mulsanne Straight you'd either have to pay to get access to Eurosport or do a lot of online faffing to see it on a livestream – and I'm sorry, but having spent most of the last 18 months stuck at home watching the telly, I went out to some car shows instead.

Normally a four-year run of victories, as anyone who's seen Ford's battle with Ferrari chronicled in the Oscar-winning Le Mans '66 will know, is a big deal. However, even petrolhead pals who I know are more than happy to bury their Sundays in F1 races are largely oblivious to Le Mans, and I reckon it's the cars themselves that are the problem.

CITROËN has slimmed down its range of seven-seaters after giving its people carrier an autumn refresh. The entry-level version of the C4 Grand SpaceTourer, the Live-specification model, has been dropped, with the French carmaker now focusing on the bigger-selling, and more upmarket versions. Prices now start at £28,630, with the first of the updated models arriving here in October:



The FIA – motorsport's global governing body – knows this, which is why for this year's race it's ditched the increasingly expensive top-flight racers, called LMP1, and replaced it a new class, called Hypercars. They're meant to be cheaper for the carmakers, based more closely on real-world tech and be more likely to use hybrid power – but you're about as likely to see Toyota's race-winning GR010 tooling up the Tarleton bypass as you are Boris Johnson winning Strictly. When the McLaren F1 won Le Mans, you at least knew it was based on something with a tax disc.

What I think would actually get Brits (besides the legion of really committed petrolheads who actually travel down to the circuit itself) truly into the world's coolest motor race is getting it back to its roots and basing the entrants on cars that actually exist on real roads. In fact, send them down a French autoroute just before the race itself, numberplates intact – and if a snippy Gendarme nicks the driver for it not being roadworthy, then it's out of the race too. That way, the cars will reflect the electric-only future we're swiftly heading towards, and if a zero emissions racer can survive 3,000 miles of flat-out driving in the space of one day, it'll hopefully translate into better tech for the rest of us, and a new generation of roadgoing Le Mans cars to get enthusiasts excited. Surely that's the very definition of win on Sunday, sell on Monday?

An all-electric Ford GT40 that's all-conquering on the track and exempt from city centre emissions charges?

I'd watch that. Would you?

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly



PEUGEOT has knocked £1,000 off the price of its Expert vans. The discount applies across the entire range, including the all-electric e-Expert, with prices now starting at £22,995. There's also a new automatic gearbox on the range-topping models, which is aimed at offering smoother changes. Go to www.peugeot.co.uk or pop into your nearest dealer to find more about the revised range.

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